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1947

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PALESTINE

30 JUN

Registry Number

E 5644/31

FROM

Admiralty

No.

Comad.

Dated

Received in Registry

30 JUN 1947

Purchase of site of storage depot at EL MANSOURA.

Copy of letter from Admiralty WGF/CE in C. 25200/437/6. 520941/2 of 26 Feb to R.G. Williams, Admiralty, discussing the purchase of the site of the storage depot at El Mansoura, near Tripoli.

Last Paper.

(Minutes.)

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Dpt R.G. Williams Admiralty Aug 16.

61936

(Action completed.)

G. C. 16/7/47

(Index)

16/7/47

Next Paper.

M. E. Surtiaji (Do you know anything about this?)

H. Bentley 12/7

Has seen Admiralty letter of July 3rd. & enclosure attached. EW 5/7.

H. Bentley.

No action required unless on an instruction of Admiralty.

H.B. 7/7

Mr P.P. Hingham C.O. & R.G. Williams, Admiralty 76441/2/27 7/8.

Also note on page

DNG. 15/8

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RECEIVED IN C.B.
27 JUN 1947
SENT TO DEP..

El Mansoura properties, but we should be glad if you would satisfy yourselves that this is still the case.

Finally, I understand that you expect that the purchase of other sites in Palestine may amount to some £20,000. We will of course, be prepared to consider these cases on their merits when you are ready, but we trust you will clear up the above points before putting them to us.

I have sent copies of this letter to Higham, Colonel Seymour and to Beeley at the Foreign Office.

Yours sincerely,

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Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
S.W.1.

24th August, 1947.

References:
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Dear Williams,

You sent me a copy of your letter W.G.F./C.E.in C. 05200/437/6. of the 3rd July addressed to Miss Waterlow about the acquisition of land in Palestine. It might certainly appear rather strange if, at the present juncture of consideration of the future of Palestine by United Nations, notice were to be published in the Gazette of the intention to acquire these properties for the use of the Royal Navy. And since the Navy has been in occupation of these properties for some time however we should not wish to attach too much importance to this point, which is, in any case, one primarily for the Foreign Office.

You will be aware that before the High Commissioner can authorise the acquisition of land not only must the intention to do so be published in the Gazette but he must be satisfied that the acquisition is "necessary or expedient for a public purpose". It is of course entirely for the High Commissioner to decide whether the acquisition of the properties in which you are interested comes within the scope of the Ordinance and I merely draw your attention to this possible difficulty.

We suggest, therefore, that, provided the Foreign Office see no insuperable political objections, you should now approach the High Commissioner with a request to acquire the land in question. I hope you will be able to make it clear that the Colonial Office have not agreed to the acquisition of any of this land; as I said above this is a matter which the High Commissioner must decide or,

R.G.WILLIAMS, ESQ.

/1f

Admty.

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